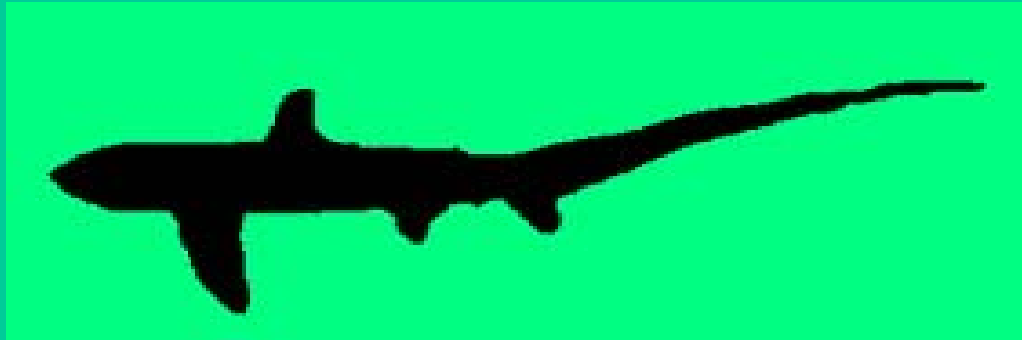


# Shark Identification

## The Thresher sharks



Thresher shark species encountered in the Hawaii pelagic longline fishery.

*Allopius vulpinus* Bonaparte, 1798, *Fish. Bonaparte*, *Vol. 1*, *Pl. 1*, *Fig. 1*. Holotype: Unknown. Type Locality: Mediterranean Sea.

**Remarks:** *Allopius vulpinus* Gmelin, 1795, *Allopius maculatus* Richardson, 1810, *Allopius vulpinus* Richardson, 1810, *Allopius maculatus* Gmelin in Gray, 1829, *Allopius vulpinus* Pennant, 1800, *Allopius vulpinus* Philippi, 1841, *Allopius maculatus* Philippi, 1841, *Allopius vulpinus* Gmelin, 1810, *Allopius vulpinus* Gmelin, 1810, *Allopius vulpinus* Gmelin, 1810.

**FAO Names:** En - Thresher shark; Fr - Barilaud; Sp - Zorro.



**Field Marks:** Long, curving dorsal caudal lobe about as long as rest of shark, relatively small eyes, narrow, dorsal peduncle fin, white colour of abdomen extending over peduncle fin base.

**Diagnostic Features:** Eyes moderately large at all sizes, orbits not expanded onto dorsal surface of head; dorsal profile of head convex and forehead strongly convex in lateral view; space between dorsal edge of eyes broadly convex; about relatively short, conical and pointed; no groove on head above gills; lateral furrow present; teeth small, over 23 rows in either jaw. Pectoral fins foliate and narrow-angled; terminal lobe of caudal fin moderately large. White colour of abdomen extending over peduncle fin base as a conspicuous patch.

*Allopius nanus* Linné, 1758

ALOP: Alop 1

*Allopius nanus* Linné, 1758, *Fish. Linné*, *Vol. 1*, *Pl. 1*, *Fig. 1*. Holotype: Unknown. Type Locality: Atlantic Ocean, near Iceland.

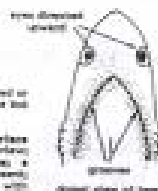
**Remarks:** *Allopius nanus* Linné, 1758.

**FAO Names:** En - Boppe shark; Fr - Barilaud à gros yeux; Sp - Zorro común.



**Field Marks:** Long dorsal caudal lobe nearly as long as rest of shark, rounded or horizontal contour of head, large eyes extending onto dorsal surface of head, foliate but rather broad-angled pectoral fins.

**Diagnostic Features:** Eyes very large, with orbits expanded onto dorsal surface of head; dorsal profile of head convex and forehead weakly convex in lateral view; space between dorsal edge of eyes nearly flat; eyes moderately large, bulging; a deep horizontal groove present on each side of head above gills; lateral furrow absent; teeth moderately large, less than 23 rows in either jaw. Pectoral fins foliate with broad bases; terminal lobe of caudal fin moderately large. Light colour of abdomen not extending over peduncle fin base.



*Allopius pelagicus* Hutton, 1872

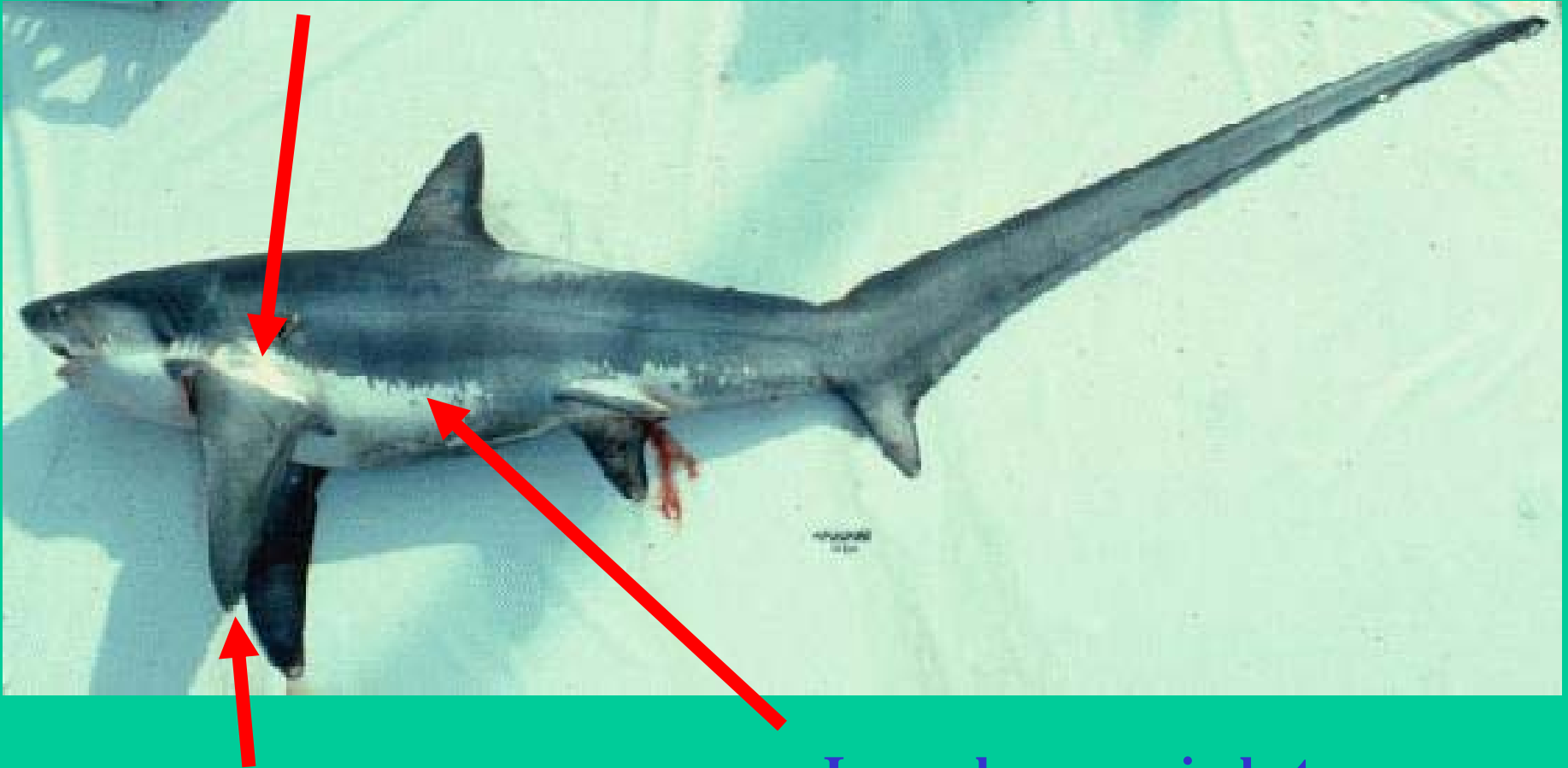
ALOP: Alop 1

*Allopius pelagicus* Hutton, 1872, *Fish. Linné*, *Vol. 1*, *Pl. 1*, *Fig. 1*. Holotype: Unknown. Type Locality: off Taiwan (Province of China), specimens examined in Hong Kong, 1872, 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 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# Common Thresher Shark

*Alopias vulpinus*

White above pectoral fin



Pectoral fin tips  
pointed

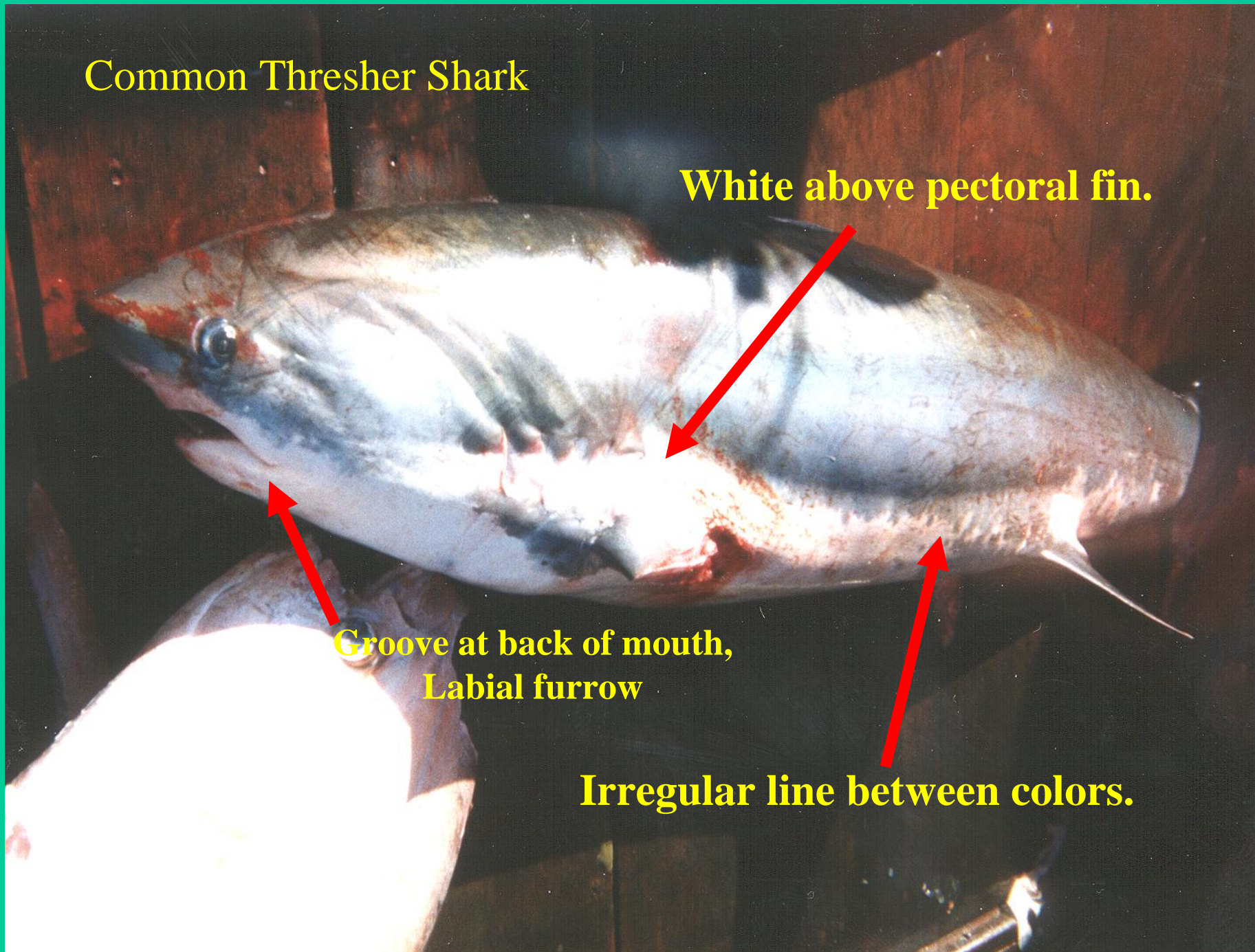
Irregular margin between  
Dark & white colors

# Common Thresher Shark

**White above pectoral fin.**

**Groove at back of mouth,  
Labial furrow**

**Irregular line between colors.**



White above  
pectoral fin.

Pointed pectoral  
fin tip.







**Common  
Thresher**

The image shows two sharks lying on a concrete surface. The shark in the foreground is a Pelagic Thresher, and the one behind it is a Common Thresher. A red arrow points from the text 'White above pectoral fin.' to a white patch on the Common Thresher's body. Two wooden measuring tapes are placed horizontally across the sharks. The background is a solid green color.

**White above  
pectoral fin.**

**Pelagic Thresher**



# A Common Thresher surfing of the California coast.



*LA Times, Photographer Ashley Healy*

# Bigeye Thresher Shark

*Alopias superciliosus*

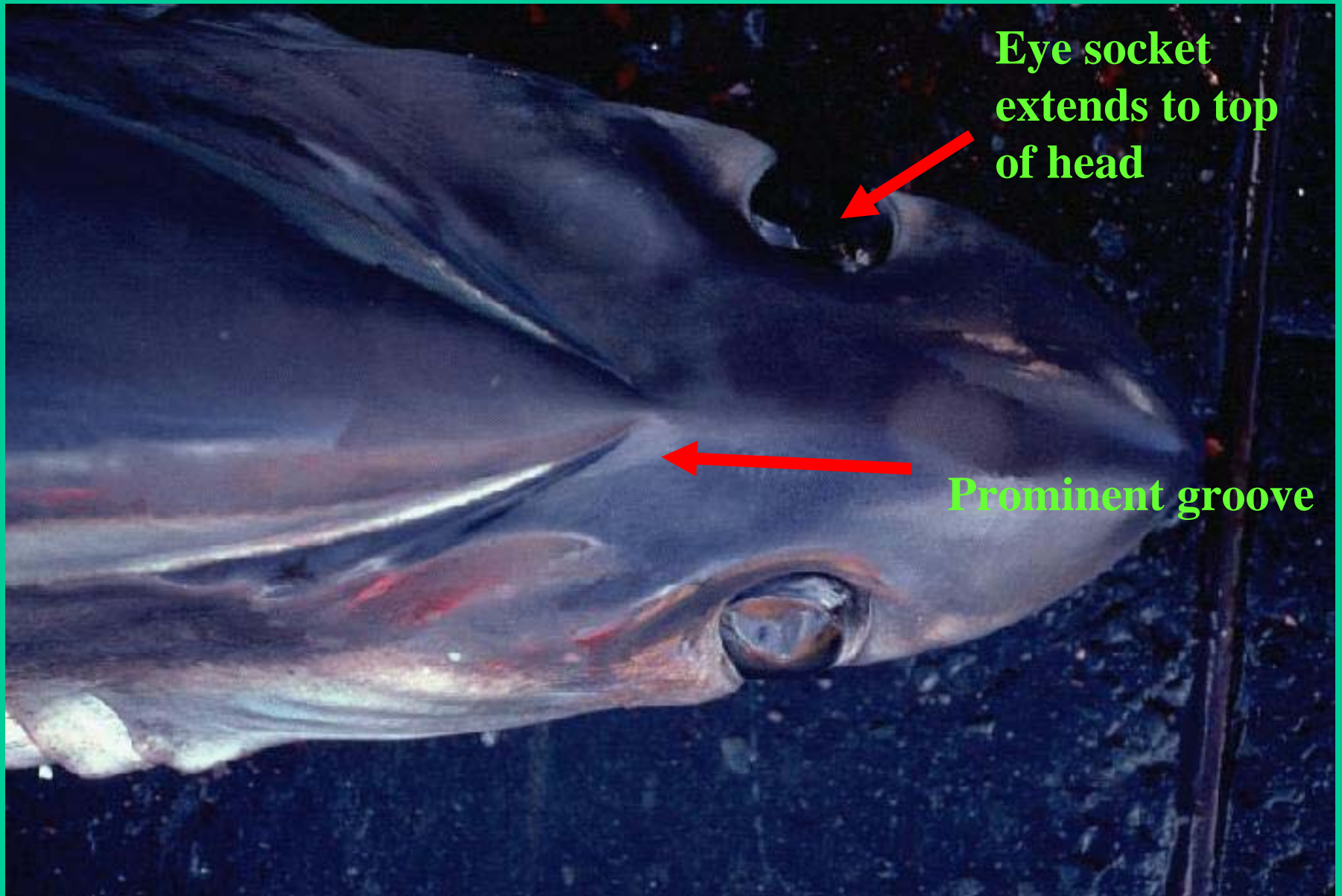




**Bigeye Thresher  
Shark**

**Groove**





Eye socket  
extends to top  
of head

Prominent groove

**Bigeye Thresher Shark head, view from above**



**Q: What is it?**



**Why?**

**A: Bigeye Thresher**





Photo by Observer Joe Wiggins





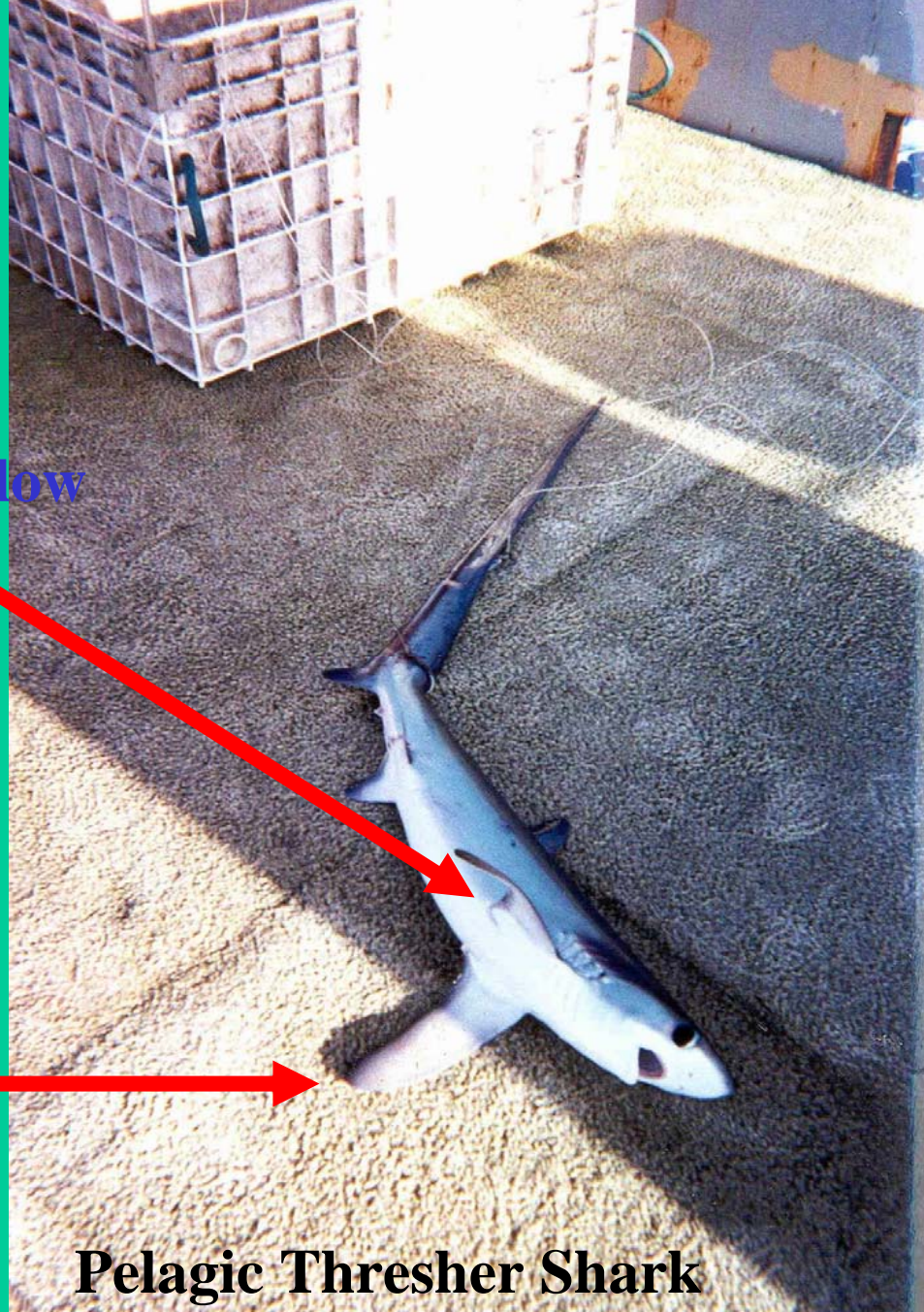






**White color is below  
pectoral fin.**

**Pectoral fin w/  
round tip.**



**Pelagic Thresher Shark**





*Alopias pelagicus*

**Pelagic Thresher  
Shark**

10.28.93





**Q: What am I?**

**A: Pelagic thresher shark**

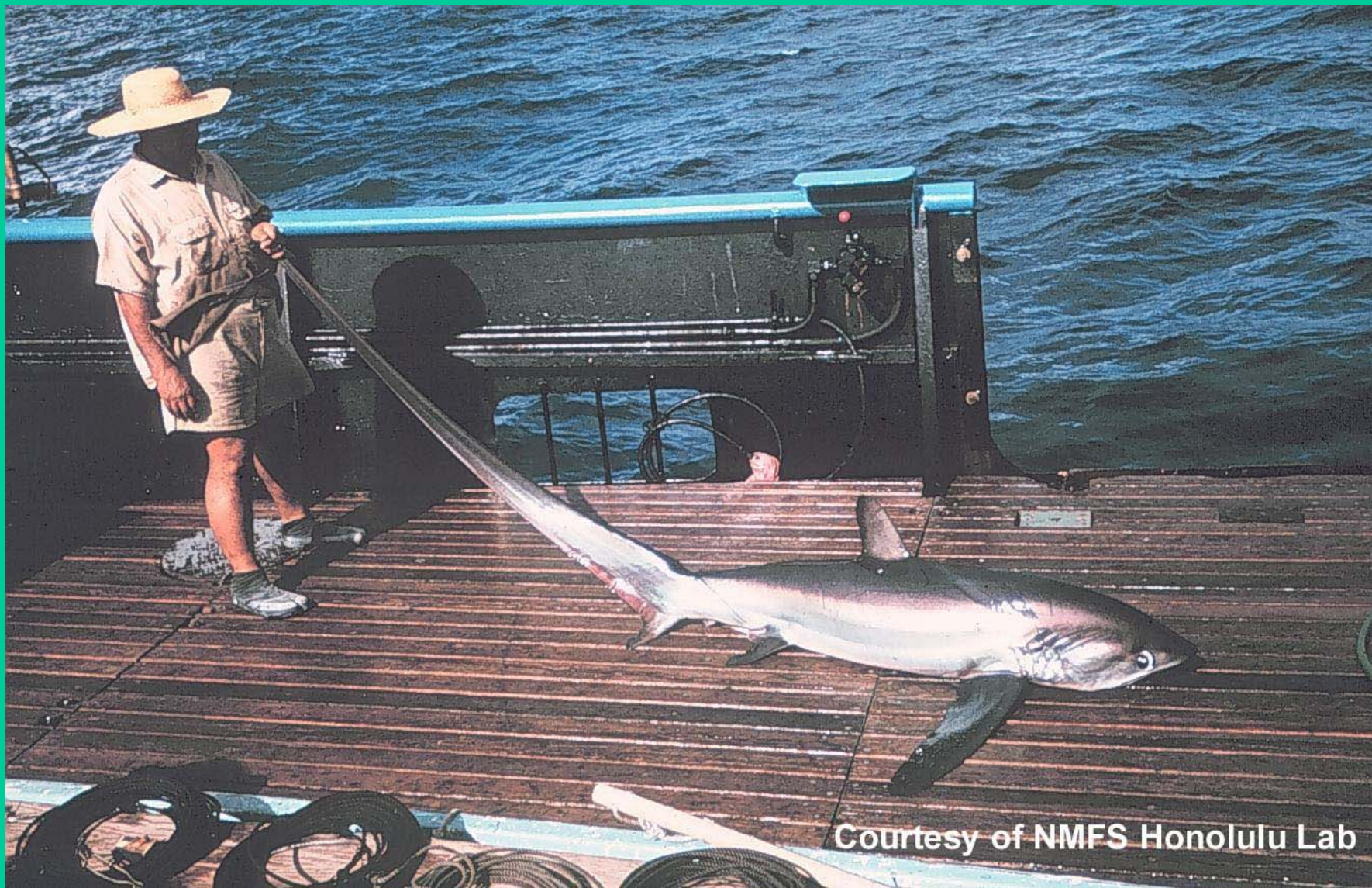
**Why?**





*Photo courtesy Tara, Clemente, NMFS Observer*

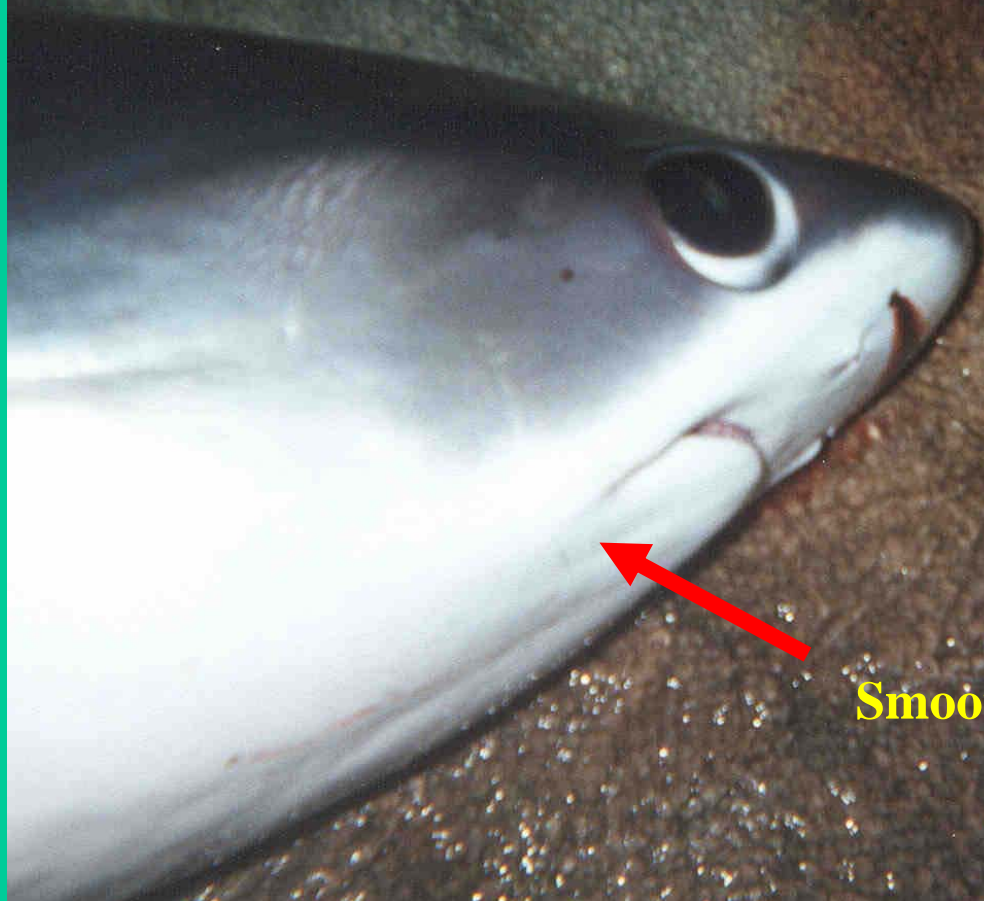




Courtesy of NMFS Honolulu Lab



**Pelagic thresher shark head. Note lack of labial furrow & large eye**



**Smooth**



# **A Common thresher jumping off the coast of Baja, Mexico.**

